



## SAFETY INSPECTION OF TRAILERS AND SEMI-TRAILERS IN MAINE

Generally, Maine law requires that trailers and semi-trailers with a GVWR (or actual weight) of 7,001 lbs or more undergo an annual safety inspection. In some cases, to be in compliance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, lighter trailers or semi-trailers may be required to be inspected if they are used in commerce<sup>i\*</sup>.

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature passed a law, Public Law Chapter 348 (LD 1817), which is intended to clarify the inspection requirements for trailers and semi-trailers in Maine. This new law became effective on September 20, 2007.

This new law clarifies that a trailer or semi-trailer is subject to a safety inspection in Maine as follows;

- When the combination of vehicles is NOT in commerce, the trailer or semi-trailer must be inspected when (by itself) it exceeds 7,000 pounds GVWR or actual gross weight.
- When the trailer or semi-trailer is used for inter-state commerce\*, the trailer or semi-trailer must be inspected if the;
  - ✓ Combined weight or weight rating of vehicles is 10,001 lbs or more, and
  - ✓ Trip is in commerce.
- When the trailer or semi-trailer is used for intra-state commerce\*, the trailer or semi-trailer must be inspected if the;
  - ✓ Combined weight or weight rating of vehicles is 10,001 lbs or more,
  - ✓ Trip is in commerce, and
  - ✓ Trailer or semi-trailer exceeds 3,000 lbs

<i><b>Inspection Needed?</b></i>	Inter-State Commerce*	Intra-State Commerce*	Trailer or Semi-Trailer NOT used in commerce
Up to 3,000 Lbs GVWR or actual weight	Yes	No	No
3,001 – 7,000 lbs GVWR or actual weight	Yes	Yes	No
7,001 lbs or more GVWR or actual weight	Yes	Yes	Yes

For additional information, please contact the Maine State Police Traffic Safety Unit at (207) 624-8939 or check our website at [www.maine.gov/dps/msp/vehicles\\_inspections](http://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/vehicles_inspections)

<sup>i</sup> For additional information on Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, please check FMCSA's website at: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/administration/fmcsr/fmcsrguide.htm>

\* Inter- or Intra-state commerce" assumes that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply and that the combined weight is 10,001 lbs or more.